

An honest debate

Legislators acted correctly by removing LB1405 from session

Fetal Tissue Round One is finally over.

Today, after three hours of floor debate, the Legislature ended its discussion of LB1405, the fetal tissue research bill.

But the fight over whether the university should use fetal tissue from elective abortions in its research will continue.

In this debate, there were threats from Sen. Ernie Chambers to "own" the Legislature during debate. There was a bastion of Catholic ladies in the gallery. Media filled the sides of the chamber. And debate on the bill finally ensued.

Practically all the senators put on their lights to talk. Each had his or her own two cents to throw in. Some senators defended their positions.

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Others added new facts. Still others told personal stories, supporting their stance on the bill. But in the end, Sen. John Hilgert, the man who introduced the bill, was tearfully forced to pull LB1405 from consideration.

And for good reason. On the floor Tuesday, several senators argued that the bill was unconstitutional.

This was not a good bill.

Regardless of your position on the issue, this bill was not what Nebraska needs.

There are many other pressing issues our legislators must deal with in the next nine days, such as finalizing the budget and a possible ethanol mandate.

Now the Legislature can take a break from this fight and step into the ring on the many other pressing issues left this year.

The end of LB1405 also gives the University of Nebraska Medical Center some valuable time. In the midst of criticism for its use of aborted fetal tissue in research, the Medical Center pledged to find alternative tissue sources.

UNMC administrators should not see this as a victory. This is a mandate from the Legislature to pursue those options. And the Medical Center does not have a choice.

In the interim period, this bill will be rewritten. And next year, it will be reintroduced.

So UNMC needs to use its time wisely and head this future debate off at the pass. Because if the researchers can find a way to get tissue from sources besides elective abortions, the Legislature will have nothing to worry about. If not, we'll be forced to endure this fight again next session.

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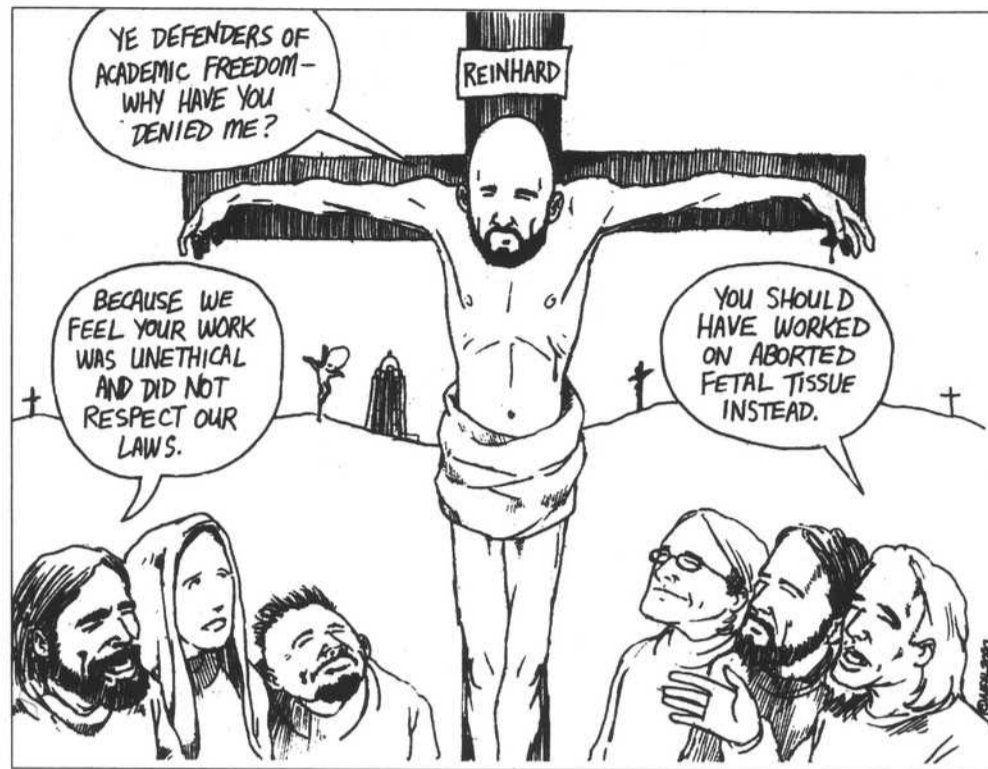
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Submit material to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448 or e-mail to: letters@unl.edu

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Obermeyer's VIEW



Letters to the EDITOR

Private persuasion

As the heated arguments continue about honors programs and residence halls, I feel the events unfolding before us neither hurt nor help our campus's well-being.

The addition and expansion of honors programs is making the value of tiny spaces a little more valuable.

However, don't let the screams of "private funding" persuade you into believing these additions are coming to us for free. As we all know, building residence halls requires land, and the land that is being used was formerly student and staff parking lots. The lack of parking lots creates a parking problem.

To return the campus to the same number of parking lots, the remaining lots are building up and tightening into tiny spaces rather than spreading out. So, for all you "regular" students out there like myself, parking rates increase to build parking garages. Why? Honors residence halls.

Stephen Kroening
senior
meteorology and
communication studies

DN kissing

It takes a big person to kick a guy when he's down. Or at least the DN must think so.

The DN has decided in its infinite wisdom that the student body wants to relive the entire ASUN campaign from start to finish. Except this time, they get to write how it "really" happened.

I noticed a pattern while I read the

articles. The Empower article was about Heath Mello. The Impact article was about Heath. The Fishpond article was about Heath.

Just about everything written in this series somehow ties back to Heath. It is not flattering, to say the least.

Somehow, the Daily Nebraskan's Editorial Board doesn't think it was enough for him to lose. It felt the need not only to rub his face in it, but to make him out to be some sort of evil person, which I assure you he is not.

The message this sends to all students is clear. Kiss up to the DN. Agree with everything it says, and sure as heck agree if you want to run for an Association of Students of the University of Nebraska office. Because if you don't, they'll slither back to the DN office and use your student fees to come up with some subtle but effective way to make you into a public mockery.

Jake Wobig
junior
political science
and international affairs

We've come a long way

I write in response to Sharity Czologos' (DN, Tuesday) letter about gays in the military. Czologos shows some of the military's aspects I didn't know.

Czologos asserts that gay soldiers threaten military cohesiveness and teamwork, and that threat undermines the possibility of successful mission completion. This breakdown is caused by the "stress, tension and hatred" resulting from "straight" soldiers'

intolerance of homosexuality, Czologos argues.

Czologos concludes, "The military would break down if homosexuals had the right to serve." (As if that would be a bad thing.) "For now, we must stick with the 'Don't ask, don't tell' policy."

What did I learn about the military? Except for its homophobia, the military has brought tolerance and solidarity between soldiers of different sexes, ethnic groups, class backgrounds and gender expressions.

Wow, as long as someone is heterosexual, the military must be a paradise of accord and teamwork, a paradise where "straight" soldiers live together harmoniously accomplishing their various missions. My, our glorious military industrial complex has come a long way.

Robert Aguirre
graduate student
English

'Share the burden'

There is great depth in the editorial about allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

Let them defend this land equally like the others and share the burden of defense against our enemies, foreign and domestic. Do not discriminate or harbor these bitter hatreds because they tear at the fiber of our communities.

Mario A. Benfield
8th district vice commander
past post 448 commander
San Francisco

WARNING!

Job opportunity may provide learning experience, fun, frustration and money for withstanding the furies of Union dungeon!

The Daily Nebraskan is now accepting applications for the fall semester. Any major field and class standing will be eligible as long as you are taking at least six credit hours and have a 2.0 GPA or higher.

Pick up an application and job description and sign up for an interview at the Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union. Applications are due March 30. Interviews will be held during the first week of April. Positions will be announced in early April.

Positions are open for: Web editor, assistant Web editor, managing editor, associate news editors, assignment editor, copy desk chief, copy editors, sports editor, A&E editor, opinion editor, night editors, design chief, designers, art director, photo chief, senior artist, senior reporters, senior photographers, advertising account executives, creative ad designer and classified staff.

The Daily Nebraskan is an equal opportunity employer and adheres to all applicable hiring guidelines.

Voice your opinion here.

The Daily Nebraskan will be hiring columnists and cartoonists for the fall semester very soon. Fine tune your views by arguing with your friends and then submit an application. Be sure to include samples.

P.S. Write Back

Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 20 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail letters@unl.edu. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification.